requirement of working capital and payment of statutory liabilities;

(b) whether constraints of working capital still exist;

(c) if so, whether any accountability has been fixed for the delay in the sale of this asset inspite of clearance from all concerned including BIFR in 1995; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: (a) Covernment approved a proposal of the' Company to sell the Head Office Building in 1992.

(b) Since the Company has been incurring losses for past several years, its working capital has been eroded and consequently the Company has been facing working capital shortage.

(c) and (d) The delay has been on account of various formalities involved including consent of financial institution, Bank and permission of BIFR. BIFR gave permission in 1995 with the condition that the sale may be effected if price was expected to fall in future. Final unconditional permission was given only on 23.4.97.

Coking coal to steel industries

*169. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of coking coal from indigenous sources to the steel sector is not coping with the needs of the steel industries;

(b) if so, the total demand of coal by steel industries per month;

(c) whether poor quality coal is being supplied to steel industries causing losses; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make available good quality coal to steel industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) All India raw Coking Coal demand assessed for the year 1998-99 for steel sector is 37.70 million tonnes which works out to 3.14 million tonnes p.m. Against which the actual supply in terms of raw coking coal from CIL to steel plants during April, 1998 was 1.361 million tonnes.

(c) Ash percentage of coal supplied to steel plants is generally maintained at agreed levels.

(d) Because of depletion in reserves of good quality coking coal in the country supply of specified quality of coking coal to the washeries is getting affected. This is causing production of washed coal of somewhat inferior quality. Two washeries at Kcdla (CCL) and Madhuband (BCCL) have been commissioned which would produce desired quality of washed coal from the coking coal available at present.

Wages of Organised Industrial' Workers

*170. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative wage figures of organised industrial workers in developed countries, India and the Asian countries; and

(b) India's position in global wage structure in the organised sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): A statement giving the wages in Idnia,mother Asian and Developed countries in the

Manufacturing sector is enclosed, *(see* below).

Wages in Manufacturing Sector in India, Other Asian and Developed Countries

ASIAN COUNTRIES	CURRENCY	PERIOD	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	l995
SAARC								
India	Rupees	Monthly	988.4	1019.03	932.6	992.fi	960.50	1211.00
Pakistan	Rupees	Monthly	1735.0	N.A.	N.A.	1501.0	N.A.	N.A.
Srilanka	Rupees	Daily	82.10	100.51	104.83	116.77	134.64	145.35
Oilier								
China	Yuan	Monthly	172.25	190.75	219.58	279.(10	356.92	430.75
Hongkong	Dollcrs	Daily	179.5	200.7	218.6	241.7	266.6	278.0
Japan	Yen	Monthly	352020	368011	372794	371356	N.A.	N.A.
Malaysia	Ringgit	Monthly	660	719	794	848	925.0	N.A.
Singapore	Doliers	Monthly	1395.00	1551.80	1686.2	1817.8	1995.3	2157.3
South Korea	Won	Monthly	590.76	690.31	793.55	885.4	1022.5	1123.9
Thailand	Bant	Monthly	3357	3688	3986	4138	4229	9000
Developed Countries								
Australia	Dollars	hours	12.89	13.27	13.68	14.02	14.70	15.50
Canada	Dollars	hours	14.2	14.9	15.4	15.7	16.0	16.2
France	Francs	hours	45.46	47.47	49.36	50.00	N.A.	N.A.
Germany	Mark	hours	20.07	21.31	22.52	23.79	24.58	25.48
UK	Pound	hours	6.05	6.88	7.09	7.45	7.55	7.85
USA	Dollars	hours	10.83	11.18	11.46	11.74	12.07	12.37

Note: — Source:— Year Book Labour Statistics, 1997 of I.L.O.
— Combined figure of men and women
— N.A. — Not Available
— No information is available in respect of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal.

Trade Sanctions by USA and other Countires

171. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government believe that trade sanctions would not be imposed by United States and other countries opposed to India's recent nuclear tests as "India is on right side of W.T.O." and it did not violate W.T.O. norms, being the most favoured nation, as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 17th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of discussions and outcome of Geneva meet held in May, 1998; and

(c) whether India was able to convince put forward its view satisfactorily before W.T.O., particularly, against unilateral trade sanctions imposed by U.S. and other countries which amount to violation of W.T.O. norms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No trade tactions have been imposed. Under the US Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994, there could be (i) prohibition of US exports of dual use goods and technology which was earlier subject ot export licensing, and (ii) termination of sale of defence articles, services, designs and termination of licences for the export of any item on the US Munitoins list. However, the precise scope and procedures of sanctions are yet to be clarified. India is of the view that trade sanctions specifically against India would be contrary to the Most Favoured Nation principle under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade.

(b) and (c) The Second Ministerial Conference of WTO held on 18—20 May 1998 did not discuss this issue. The issue was raised bilaterally on by two delegations. At these biliteral meetings, the Indian delegation explained fully the